

10-651(3)

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

TABLET PACKING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a tablet packing apparatus.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] In a medicine packing apparatus in which tablets and powder are dispensed in accordance with a prescription data and packed in a packing sheet by one dose and in a tablet packing apparatus in which tablets are dispensed and filled in a vial, there is provided a tablet cassette shelf on which a plurality of tablet cassettes containing different kinds of tablets respectively are mounted so that the tablets are dispensed one by one. In a back side plate of the tablet cassette shelf, there are provided tablet outlets that extend obliquely downward from the tablet cassettes and tablet drop guide paths that guide the tablets as they drop from the tablet outlets.

[0003] The tablet drop guide paths have three disadvantages. Firstly, a tablet that is dropping along the tablet drop guide path likely falls on an inclined plane of the tablet outlet of the lower tablet cassette and bounces upward, causing the drop of the tablet to be delayed. As a result, the tablet is not ready in time for packing and is packed in a subsequent package. Secondly, the tablet bounced on the inclined plane of the tablet outlet is likely detected by a sensor disposed in the tablet outlet, causing a false indication that the tablet has been discharged from the tablet outlet. To these disadvantages, an applicant of the present application has disclosed an idea in which a sheet member for covering the tablet outlet is attached on the upper edge of the tablet outlet in the tablet drop guide path so that the tablet dropping along the tablet

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